

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 EB-08
COME-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 /074 W
-----107040 101732Z /45

O R 101610Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5036
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE
USAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
USAFC RAMSETIN GE
USNAVEUR LONDON
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, NO
SUBJECT: GON CABINET SHIFT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY PRIME MINISTER NORDLI ANNOUNCED AT A 1530 JANUARY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY, TRANSPORTATION, MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, CONSUMER AFFAIRS WILL BE CHANGED AND THAT THE FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRY WILL BE CHANGED AND THAT THE FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRY WILL BECOME THE HEAD OF THE NEW MINISTRY OF OIL AND ENERGY. A SPECIAL KING'S COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 11 WILL FORMALLY APPOINT THE NEW OFFICIALS.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION NOTES THE CHANGES IN THE CABINET AND PROVIDES BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND ON THE NEW INCUMBENTS. MORE DETAILED BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WILL BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY.
ASBJORN JORDAL, A MEMBER OF THE STORTING, WHO IS IN HIS EARLY 40S AND IS A JOURNALIST BY PROFESSION, IS MINISTER DESIGNATE OF TRANSPORTATION AND REPLACES RAGNER

CHRISTIANSEN. HE HAS HAD LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE LABOR PARTY. HE IS THE MAYOR OF KRISTIANSUND AND HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS A GOOD SOCIAL DEMOCRAT.

KIRSTEN MYKLEVOLL, MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR CONSUMER AND ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS REPLACES ANNEMARIE LORENTZEN. MYKLEVOLL IS A MEMBER OF THE STORTING FROM MORE AND ROMSDAL AND IS A TEACHER BY PROFESSION. HE WAS BORN ON [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 05 DEC 2014], IN TROMSO AND IS MARRIED TO A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, MAGNUS MYKLEVOLL. SHE BEGAN HER POLITICAL CAREER IN THE TEACHERS' UNION AND AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION BOARD IN 1966-68 AND A MEMBER OF THE LABOR PARTY BOARD IN SANDSTRAND FROM 1964-68 AND AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TROMSO PROVINCIAL LABOR PARTY BOARD FROM 1968-70. SHE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE STORTING IN 1973. MYKLEVOLL TOOK PART IN AN EMBASSY-SPONSORED NATO TOUR IN OCT 1975 AND WAS GIVEN AN IV GRANT IN MAY 1976.

ARNE NILSEN, MINISTER DESIGNATE FOR LABOR AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS REPLACES LEIF ANNE. NILSEN IS A MEMBER OF THE STORTING FROM HORDALAND AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE PARLIAMENT SINCE THE EARLY 1960S. HE WAS BORN ON JAN 21, 1924, IN BERGEN AND MARRIED SOLVEIG BERENTSEN IN 1948. HE HAD A TWENTY-YEAR CAREER WITH THE NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM, AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARD OF VOSS FROM 1952 TO 1967, AND WAS ITS MAYOR FROM 1960-63. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND A MEMBER OF A NUMBER OF LOCAL COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE LABOR PARTY BOARD IN HORDALAND IN 1956 AND

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WAS ITS VICE CHAIRMAN FROM 1959-66, AND ITS CHAIRMAN IN 1966. HE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE STORTING IN 1965. OLAV HAUKVIK, MINISTER DESIGNATE OF INDUSTRY REPLACES BJARTMAR GJERDE. HAUKVIK IS THE PRESENT GOVERNOR AND POLITICAL COUNSELLOR (FRLKESRAAD) OF TELEMARK PROVINCE, BUT WAS FOR YEARS A CAREER CIVIL SERVANT AND AN EXPERT IN THE TRANSPORTATION FIELD. HE WAS BORN IN 1928, FINISHED COLLEGE WITH A DEGREE IN LAW IN 1950 AND JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. HE ROSE STEADILY THROUGH THE VARIOUS RANKS TO HIS HIGHEST BUREAUCRATIC POSITION WHICH WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. HAUKVIK, A MEMBER OF THE LABOR PARTY, IS MARRIED, HAS SEVERAL CHILDREN AND IS THE BROTHER OF ARNE HAUKVIK, A PROMINENT CENTER PARTY POLITICIAN WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE OSLO CITY COUNCIL.

BJARTMAR GJERDE, MINISTER DESIGNATE OF THE NEW MINISTRY OF OIL AND ENERGY. GJERDE WAS BORN ON NOV 6, 1931, IN SANDE. HE WAS BY PROFESSION A JOURNALIST AND WORKED WITH LOCAL PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPERS UNTIL 1958 WHEN HE BECAME EDITOR OF THE LABOR PARTY'S YOUTH ORGAN. GJERDE WAS THE SECRETARY OF THE LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FROM 1961-62 AND CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE WORKERS' EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (AOF) FROM 1962-71. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE STATE YOUTH COUNCIL,

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THE COUNCIL ON BROADCASTING, THE UNESCO COMMISSION AND
THE COUNCIL ON ADULT EDUCATION. HE WAS NAMED AN ALTERNATE
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
LABOR PARTY IN 1962 AND BECAME A FULL MEMBER IN 1973 AS WELL AS
BEING CHAIRMAN OF THE OSLO LABOR PARTY FROM 1969-72. HE WAS
ALTERNATE REP TO THE STORTING FROM 1965-69 AND WAS APPOINTED
MINISTER FOR CHURCH AND EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS IN 1971-72.
GJERDE WAS NAMED MINISTER OF INDUSTRY IN 1973. GJERDE STUDIED
AT HARVARD IN 1969.

COMMENT: THERE WAS VERY LITTLE IN THE WAY OF POLITICAL
MOTIVATION FOR THE CABINET SHIFTS. THREE MINISTERS, AUNE,
LORENTZEN AND CHRISTIANSEN, HAD TOLD THE PM OF THEIR DESIRE
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FOR RETIREMENT AFTER LAST SEPTEMBER'S GENERAL ELECTION. THE VACANCY IN THE INDUSTRY MINISTRY WAS CREATED BY THE SHIFTING OF GJERDE TO THE NEW OIL AND ENERGY MINISTRY. PM NORDLI, IN HIS USUAL STYLE, ARRANGED THE CABINET CHANGES QUIETLY. THOUGH THE NAMES OF THE CHOICES WERE CLOSELY HELD UNTIL THE DAY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE SUSPENSE. THERE WERE NO SURPRISES AMONG NORDLI'S SELECTIONS, AND THE NORMAL GEOGRAPHIC AND GENDER BALANCE REMAINS THE SAME. THE NAMING OF HAUKVIK TO INDUSTRY RAISED A FEW EYEBROWS, MAINLY BECAUSE HE IS NOT WELL KNOWN OUTSIDE OF HIS HOME AREA AND THE LABOR PARTY, AND HIS IDENTITY AND BACKGROUND ARE BUREAUCRATIC RATHER THAN POLITICAL. WHILE ALL OF THE APPOINTEES CAN BE EXPECTED TO TURN IN A GOOD JOB, THE ARRIVAL OF ARNE NILSEN, ONE OF THE STORTING'S MOST EXPERIENCED FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC AUTHORITIES, AS THE MINISTRY OF LABOR SUGGESTS A STRONG ROLE FOR THAT MINISTRY IN DEALING WITH THE DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD FOR NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO00132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-1154
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780181/aaaacqar.tel
Line Count: 189
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84abeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3801265
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GON CABINET SHIFT
TAGS: PINT, PINR, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84abeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014